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Unfortunately, stories like Alina's are all too common among young mothers who have aged out of state care. After growing up inside institutions, 16-18 year-olds leaving the system are often unprepared to provide for themselves, let alone a newborn. While Russian law guarantees young people housing after leaving the orphanage, economic constraints often prevent this right from being realized. Lacking healthy support networks, many young people leaving orphanages fail to make the transition to independence successfully. Though reliable statistics on the prevalence of “second-generation orphans” are unavailable, the children of parents who grew up in state care often wind up in orphanages themselves, the Russian newspaper *Moskovsky Komsomolets* reported in July.** ▶▶▶

****** “In Russia a Dynasty of Abandonment Has Begun,” Anastasia Kuzina, *Moskovsky Komsomolets*, July 3, 2008. <http://www.mk.ru/blogs/MK/2008/07/03/russia/360498/>.

The National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NFPCC), IREX's main implementing partner on the ARO program, teamed with the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and the Federal Education Agency to conduct a seminar on programs promoting family forms of care for orphaned and abandoned children. The Moscow-based seminar brought together 58 delegates from 33 regions of the Russian Federation.



Vladimir Kabanov, Director of the Ministry of Education and Science's Department of Government Policy on Family Care for Orphaned and Abandoned Children, addresses attendees at the Moscow seminar.

